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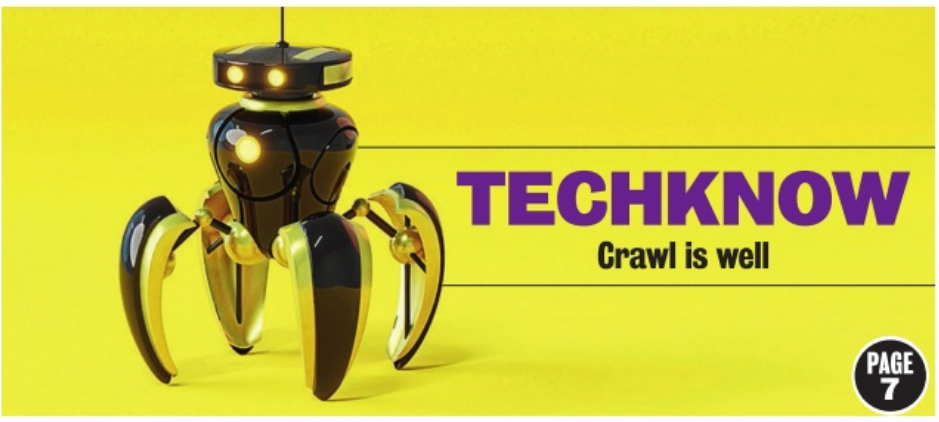
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 20 | Humidity 34% Clear Sky Sensex 72,426 | Nifty 22,040 | Gold 61,832 | Silver 72,085 | Dollar 82.99 | Euro 89.43 | GBP 104.58

WAR FOOTING
Crumbling pavements
PAGE 4



TECHKNOW
Crawl is well
PAGE 7

Digital boards at bus shelters displaying inaccurate estimated time of arrivals of BMTC buses, commuters complain

JOURNEYS LOST IN TIME

'Display showing details for bus stop on opposite lane'

| Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Regular commuters of buses, operated by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), who rely on the digital boards put up in bus shelters complained that the information regarding the estimated time of arrival (ETA) displayed on these boards are oftentimes inaccurate.

The regular passengers of these services have now urged the corporation to fix the issue at the earliest and ensure that these digital boards are in sync with the real time data and information provided on the Namma BMTC application.

In August, the corporation installed the boards in more than 200 locations that have access to electricity and receive high footfall.

With expenses covered under the Nirbhaya funds, the BMTC had taken up the Automatic Vehicle Tracking System (AVTS) project. The display boards are an initiative within the purview of the AVTS.

Nihar Thakkar, a cyclist and public transport enthusiast took to Twitter (X) and said: "All the bus arrival displays at stops I've seen show wrong information. This is incredibly misleading for passengers. Please do a basic check and fix this. I fail to understand how the information shown on these displays is completely different to what is provided by the app."

Thakkar further noted that while the application has its own issues, he found it to be accurate 70 percent of the time, when it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> "The displays currently have an accuracy of 0%, from every stop I've checked
>
> — Nihar Thakkar, public transport enthusiast

January was the cruellest month

90 lives lost as city records over 400 accidents in first month of 2024

| Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The latest data released by the Bengaluru traffic police for January 2024 paints a saddening picture of road safety in various areas of the city.

Analysis of the data revealed alarming figures, indicating the urgent need for enhanced safety measures and increased awareness among commuters.

One of the most critical findings of the report is the high number of accidents and fatalities on major roads. The International Airport road, a crucial artery in Bengaluru's transportation network, witnessed 27 accidents resulting in 11 fatalities.

Similarly, areas like KR Puram, Kengeri, Kamakshipalya, Hebbal, Whitefield, Yelahanka, and Electronic City reported significant accident numbers with more than 20 accidents in just 30 days and fatalities ranging from four to nine per area.

Basavanagudi recorded 11 accidents, resulting in nine injuries and a fatality. HSR Layout saw six accidents and one fatality, indicating an alarming fatality rate per accident.

Jayanagar recorded eight accidents, resulting in 12 injuries. While the number

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Rajasthani showcase

Experience the vibrant tapestry of Indian craftsmanship and culture at the Grand Rajasthani Exhibition organised by Maaruthi Enterprises. Delight in the exclusive sale of handloom textiles, intricate handicrafts, dazzling jewellery, elegant sarees, dress materials, and khadi kurta. Don't miss the live puppet show from Rajasthan and other entertaining performances while indulging in a feast for the senses.
Where: Srinivasa Kalyana Mantapa
When: Until February 19

02 Cook off!

Indulge in a delightful culinary adventure with your partner at the "Couples Cook-Off" event. Get ready to showcase your cooking skills and bond over delicious food as you compete against other couples in a friendly cooking competition. With exciting challenges and tasty dishes, this event promises to be a memorable experience for all food enthusiasts!
Where: Small World, Koramangala
When: February 19

03 Feel all senses

Immerse yourself in the world of poetry and spoken word at the "Write Out Loud" Poetry Evening. Join fellow poetry enthusiasts for an evening of artistic expression and heartfelt performances as talented poets take the stage to share their work. Whether you're a seasoned poet or simply appreciate the beauty of language, this event promises to ignite your imagination and inspire your soul.
Where: Lahe Lahe
When: February 20

Sun salutation

Around 300 yoga enthusiasts participated in performing 108 Surya Namaskara as part of Ratha Sampthami inside the Vidhana Soudha premises.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

'Meet your MLA' campaign for resident advocacy

Bangalore Apartments' Federation to address issues affecting apartment communities, urging action and legislative reform

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The Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) serves as a collective voice for residents of apartments and villa communities throughout Bengaluru, advocating for their interests. To instil a practice of citizens constantly engaging with their elected representatives and demanding their attention and action on critical issues through legislative mechanisms, BAF recently kickstarted a "Meet Your MLA" campaign on the eve of the budget session of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. Nearly 14 city MLAs and ministers of the government were met by BAF representatives in various assembly constituencies and a representation on two key issues affecting apartment residents was presented to them and their support was requested to bring the issues to the attention of the house.

The BAF members raised concerns pertaining to apartment communities. One was to update and implement a comprehensive law (on the basis of the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act 1972) to ensure clear property ownership and management rights to homeowners of apartment complexes. Annexure A includes specific inputs and recommendations from the charter on this topic. And to overhaul and implement comprehensive policies and laws to ensure environmental safeguards for a greener city while at the same time ensuring that the citizens' rights for public and essential services like fresh water, solid waste management and wastewater treatment are provided by the government. Annexure B includes specific inputs and recommendations from the charter on this topic.

In the budget, it was announced to strengthen the functioning of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), a single mechanism video will be created and various permissions and certifications will be issued.

With some reforms being added to the list, the BAF members appreciated the efforts of elected representatives considering their issues. Satish Mallya, vice president of BAF said, "CM Siddaramaiah announced measures to bring reforms and ease of use in the consent process at KSPCB– this will help many apartments with sewage treatment plants to go through the consent and compliance process easily. He also announced encouragement for the reuse of treated water from STPs of apartments, which will help incentivise apartments towards better treatment and provide that water for external use. We thank Forests, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre for his support and action on this topic."

Vishnu Gattupalli, general secretary, BAF said, "One of the key commitments of the current government during elections was to update, reform and implement the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act 1972 to ensure clarity of property ownership and management for apartment homeowners. We thank Ravi Subramanya, MLA Basavanagudi for having raised this topic during the session. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar confirmed on the floor of the house the government's seriousness and priority on coming up with clear legal frameworks– we urge the government to take this on high priority for action.

Vikram Rai, president of BAF said, "We are very happy that within a span of a week, we could meet multiple city MLAs and Ministers of the government and brief them on key issues affecting apartment residents. We are glad that our members were able to participate in this campaign."

A sewage treatment plant in an apartment in K Narayanapura

> **"We are very happy that within a span of a week, we could meet multiple city MLAs and Ministers of the government and brief them on key issues affecting apartment residents**
> –Vikram Rai, president, BAF

No more hidden charges as declaring actual interest rate is now mandatory

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced transparency measures for borrowers on other charges that are levied by the lending institutions on taking a loan, apart from interest rates. As per the announcement, all lending institutions are now required to provide all the charges (like processing fees and documentation charges etc.) that are actually loaded into interest rate on a loan in the Key Fact Statement (KFS). This move will give borrowers information about the actual annualised interest rate that they pay on the loan. It will cover not only digital lending apps but also all the banks and NBFCs (Non-banking Finance companies) on all retail and MSMEs loans.

The move is one of the measures to enhance the customer centricity and also to enhance transparency measures. The possibility of levying any hidden charges by a lender on a loan will be greatly reduced because of this. The actual annualised interest rate will also include one-time charges and other charges that are levied by the banks and NBFCs.

While announcing the move the RBI Governor said, "At present, the loans and advances availed by borrowers, apart from including the rate of interest, also include other fees and charges such as processing fees, documentation charges, etc.

To enhance transparency in disclosure of such information, the Reserve Bank had mandated certain categories of lenders to provide the borrower a Key Fact Statement (KFS) containing essential information such as the all-inclusive annual percentage rate (APR) and recovery and grievance redress mechanism. The requirement of KFS is now being extended to cover all retail and MSME loans. This measure will lead to enhanced transparency in lending and enable customers in making informed decisions."

As per the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies issued by the RBI, "The Reserve Bank has announced several measures in the recent past to foster greater transparency and disclosure by the regulated entities (REs) in pricing of loans and other charges levied on the customers. One such measure is the requirement for lenders to provide their borrowers a Key Fact Statement (KFS) containing the key information regarding a loan agreement, including all-in-cost of the loan, in simple and easy to understand format. Currently KFS is specifically mandated in respect of loans by scheduled commercial banks to individual borrowers; digital lending by REs; and microfinance loans. Now, it has been decided to mandate all REs to provide the 'Key Fact Statement' (KFS) to the borrowers for all retail and MSME loans. Providing critical information about the terms of the loan agreement, including all-inclusive interest cost, shall greatly benefit the borrowers in making an informed decision."

Adhil Shetty, CEO & Co-Founder, BankBazaar says, " This is a welcome extension from personal loans to MSME loans. In 2023, the RBI had provided guidance on penal charges to be clearly disclosed in the KFS. The KFS must included all must-know details of the loan in a templatised format for the borrower. It should mention Annual Percentage Rate, processing fees, penalties, various loan charges etc. A KFS was mandatory for individual loans. Now, all regulated entities must provide the KFS to all retail and MSME borrowers."

Abhiroop Medhekar, Founder and CEO, Velocity, a cash-flow based financing platform says, "The decision to extend Key Fact Statement (KFS) requirements to all lenders will enhance transparency for retail and MSME borrowers. This move also levels the playing field between traditional institutions and digital lending platforms, who were already mandated to provide KFS. KFS will clearly inform borrowers about the fully-loaded actual cost of borrowing and eliminate hidden charges. We expect this move to enhance borrowers' trust in the lending ecosystem and empower them to make informed decisions about their loans."

Key Fact Statement

The KFS is a document issued by the banks and NBFCs to the prospective borrowers informing them about all the terms and conditions, charges, interest rate about the loan.

By Preeti Motiani, ET Online

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HG 08 Dalhousie Dharamshala...	EA 10 London Swiss Paris	ER 09 Best of Eastern...	E6 14 Best Of Europe
NN 09 Darjeeling Gangtok...	EB 11 Austria Swiss Paris	P8 10 Glimpses of Europe...	EH 15 Spain Portugal Morocco
HE 12 All Of Himachal	ED 11 Italy Swiss Paris	E7 12 Enticing Europe	E1 22 All Of Europe

World Tours

Tour Code	Day	
D3	04	Dubai
QA	06	Thailand
FT	06	Thailand
F8	07	Singapore Malaysia
FI	08	Bali Jakarta
Q2	10	Singapore Thailand...
FV	10	Vietnam Cambodia
NZ	10	Bhutan
VS	08	S. Africa Pilannesburg...
V1	13	South Africa Kenya...
U3	13	USA - East and West Coast
AN	11	All of New Zealand
A1	18	Australia New Zealand
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Crumbling pavements: No city for pedestrians

Residents voice concerns as officials fail to respond to urgent calls to repair footpaths

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Despite significant budget allocations by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for upkeep, the reality on the ground remains grim, leading from minor mishaps to fatalities. Residents from different localities have pointed out issues such as broken and inaccessible footpaths, noting that despite regular follow-ups, the issues persist without resolution.

Some highlighted issues include the deteriorating roads and footpaths in various wards, such as the footpath along the Old Airport Road in Murgeshpalya, near Pizza Hut, and across from the ISRO UR main gate, which has been in disrepair for over a decade. Additionally, hazardous conditions for two-wheelers after dark in the BDA layout opposite Salarpuria Splendor in Konena Agrahara ward, number 115, have been noted.

The challenge for individuals, particularly senior citizens, to navigate from Golden Enclave to the More Supermarket in Konena Agrahara - 125 is particularly severe. Voicing his concerns, Bondy Lahori W, President of Golden Enclave Apartments and a resident of Konena Agrahara - 125, said, "Despite requests for repairs for the footpaths outside Golden Enclave, no action was taken by the concerned officials. Although the BBMP officials visited the spot yesterday, they did very little to repair the road. The patch-up will surely come out in a couple of days leading to more accidents. The danger is particularly high at points like the Chai Wala store, where a multi-layered ditch poses a significant risk of injury. Are the officials waiting for a tragic accident to occur? If so, they will bear the responsibility. This shoddy work done by the officials is unacceptable."

Broken footpaths are a common sight across the city

> **Are the officials waiting for a tragic accident to occur? If so, they will bear the responsibility. This shoddy work done by the officials is unacceptable**
>
> –Bondy Lahori W, President, Golden Enclave Apartments

The team at Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP) pointed out that they have been trying to contact the engineer for Konena Agrahara - 125 since last month. However, there has been no response to our calls and messages regarding the issue by the official. This unresponsiveness raises serious concerns for the safety of pedestrians.

Milind Kulabkar, Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader, CV Raman Nagar, said, "On one hand, the government is proposing substantial funds for white-topping projects while on the other, there is total neglect as far as the urgent need for road repairs is concerned. The critical condition of our roads requires immediate intervention, and diverting funds to less pressing projects reflects a misallocation of priorities."

Lalithamba BV, Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader - BNP, Bommanahalli, said, "Bengaluru already tops the list of cities in fatalities due to civic body negligence (as per NCRB data). If the BBMP and other relevant organisations do not respond effectively, we may see an increase in deaths and injuries. This trend does not signal well for a city that is looking to build a brand for itself."

On EV high, B'luru to get even more charged up

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As of February 15, 2024, Karnataka has emerged as the leading state in the country for providing state-of-the-art EV charging infrastructure, boasting 5,059 charging stations. Maharashtra with 3,079 stations and Delhi with 1,886 are second and third.

According to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) estimates, it would cost Rs 35-40 lakh to set up EV charging station across Bengaluru.

BESCOM is now in talks with Reliance BP Mobility Limited for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for the setup of 225 public charging stations across Bengaluru. BESCOM has awarded the tender to the company.

As per the tender, 225 public charging stations will be established, with 150 in Bengaluru city and 75 in Bengaluru rural.

This is part of BESCOM's larger plans to bring more public charging infrastructure for EV users.

1,190 stations

As per the plan, BESCOM has proposed 1,190 EV charging stations across the state under the PPP model with 1,190 AC chargers and as many DC chargers.

"We had awarded the tender for setting up the charging infrastructure to Reliance BP Mobility Limited in October. They have agreed to set up 150 charging stations in Bengaluru city and 75 in Bengaluru rural. Currently, a survey is ongoing to identify the land for setting up the infrastructure. Once the survey is completed, they will sign a 10-year lease contract with the land owing agency. Reliance will call the bid for Rs 2.19 per unit," said a senior BESCOM official.

Most of these charging stations would come in government properties. As per central government guidelines, nodal agencies were instructed to pay at least Re 1 per unit and BESCOM awarded the tender to bids higher than the rate of Rs 1 per unit.

Each charging station will have 10 KW AC 001 chargers, 7.5 KW type 2 chargers and 60 KW CCS2 chargers. The CCS2 DC chargers can enable the charging of two vehicles at the same time.

The 10 KW AC 001 charger or 7.5 KW type 2 charger may be used depending on the site requirements.

While BESCOM is charging Rs 7.38 per unit from the user, Reliance charges the user Rs 15.99 per unit. "They are charging a rate of Rs 15.99 per unit in other places. The actual rate might vary. Compared to BESCOM, they need to be profitable and hence would charge a higher tariff. They also need to make a lot of investments for setting up these stations," he added.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
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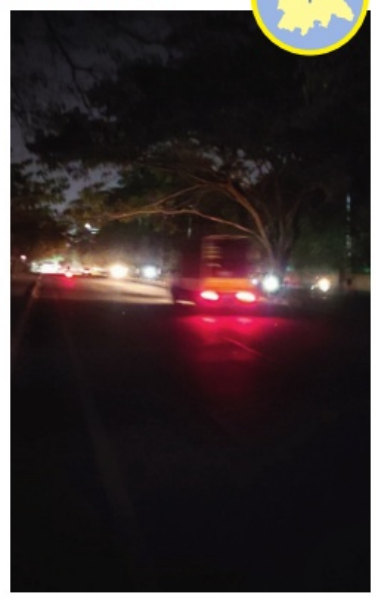
Abandoned shed
Vijayanagar

There is a shed and some construction materials lying on the service road near Gayathri Hospital, near Manuvana.

No streetlights
Cubbon Road



The road near Chinnaswamy Stadium is pitch dark with no working streetlights. It has been like this for weeks, despite being designated as a VVIP movement road.

Sidewalk squatter
RT Nagar

A person has been residing on the footpath at 12th Cross for the past 14 months, causing inconvenience to local residents.

Flight plan hanging by a wire at Doddakallasandra Lake

Citizens raise alarm over indiscriminate hanging of cables through lake area that restricts birds' flight

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The Doddakallasandra Lake Protection Committee has called on the municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to take down cables running through the premises of the lake that is causing restrictions to the flights of many birds that live here.

Soundararajan, a resident who lives near the Doddakallasandra lake, said that due to the lack of surveillance by security guards, all kinds of such activities happen even in broad daylight. He added that the cable will affect birds' free flying. "While installing the cables, a few persons have entered the island also, to stretch to other areas. It is nesting time and about 20 peacocks are on the island with young ones," he claimed.

Raghavendra Pachhapur, a lake activist, says that various birds including the oriental darter, painted storks and black-headed ibis, which have been deemed as Near Threatened (NT) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), have begun to thrive in the shallow waters of the lake, a transitional zone between the shore and the deep waters. He explained that the birds gather in shallow waters due to security and abundance of food presence.

Wires hang over Doddakallasandra Lake that is home to several birds, some deemed as near-threatened

The protection committee said that the municipal body must ensure that no cables run through any lake premises, especially those that witness movement of birds, stressing that agencies must not given the necessary permissions to draw a cable through the lake.

Integrate expectations: One pillar & 2 modes of transport

Multi-level flyovers planned for metro lines to decongest Bengaluru

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Bengaluru has numerous flyovers, a majority of which are designed for surface transport. But there are also new flyovers specifically built for Metro trains and the plan is to build a few more to accommodate suburban trains. Encouraged by the success of the double-decker flyover near BTM Layout, authorities are looking to have more multi-level flyovers capable of handling both Metro and motorist traffic.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Sunday that the government is contemplating the construction of flyovers along certain stretches of metro lines to alleviate traffic congestion in Bengaluru. He said, "It has been decided to build flyovers on certain stretches of metro lines to decongest the traffic. A proposal has been sent to the Centre regarding this. The Chief Minister announced many projects in the Budget to develop Bengaluru. The BBMP Budget will be presented soon, and it will complement the projects announced in the State budget. We are preparing a feasibility report for tunnel roads near Yeshwanthpur, Sumanahalli, and Goraguntepalya, etc."

Sreekar G, an urban expert, said, the integrated approach offers a multitude of benefits, ranging from cost-effectiveness and reduced land acquisition to providing a seamless and diverse transportation network. "For example, the integration of surface transport and metro systems using the same pillar presents a cost-effective alternative to traditional transportation infrastructure. By combining these two modes of transit, cities can optimise the use of resources, streamline construction processes, and minimise the overall financial burden. One of the primary challenges in urban planning is the acquisition of vast stretches of land for transportation projects."

Vehicles pass by metro pillars on the Doddanekkundi flyover (File photo)

According to Sreekar, multi-level flyovers that have both surface transport lanes and metro tracks on a single pillar significantly reduce the land footprint required for such initiatives. He said this approach allows cities to make the most of limited space, mitigating the impact on existing structures and minimizing displacement of communities. "By vertically stacking transport infrastructure, multi-level flyovers optimise the utilisation of available space. This vertical integration allows for the creation of transport corridors that efficiently traverse the urban landscape without necessitating wide expanses of land. Moreover, as multi-level flyovers that accommodate both surface transport and metro trains offer a diverse range of transportation options to Bengalureans. Commuters can choose the mode of transit that best suits their needs, preferences, and schedules. This flexibility contributes to a more resilient and adaptable transportation system that can cater to the evolving demands of a dynamic urban environment."

The integrated multi-level flyover concept promotes time and energy efficiency by reducing travel times and optimising the flow of traffic. The numerous benefits, including cost-effectiveness, reduced land acquisition, efficient space utilisation, enhanced connectivity, and diverse transportation options, make this approach an attractive solution for addressing the challenges of modern urbansation, he said.

> **"Integration of surface transport and metro using the same pillar is a cost-effective alternative to traditional infra**
>
> –Sreekar G, expert

IN BRIEF

3 die in perfume storage unit blaze

A shocking incident unfolded in Ramasandra, Kengeri, on Sunday evening, as a fire erupted in a perfume storage unit, claiming three lives and potentially trapping several others. The blaze seems to have started due to an explosion. Residents of the area nearby swiftly alerted the authorities upon witnessing the blaze.

Responding swiftly, two fire tenders arrived at the scene to extinguish the flames and recover the charred remains of the victims. The unit, initially described as a junk shop spanning 100 square feet, primarily dealt with the crushing of empty deodorant cans for recycling purposes. Officials suspect that the densely packed space may have contained chemicals which ignited, possibly due to sparks.

Among the casualties, five individuals sustained burn injuries and were promptly transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. Authorities from the BBMP, in collaboration with senior police personnel, are overseeing the ongoing rescue efforts. Additionally, an investigation has been launched to ascertain the nature of operations within the unit and any potential regulatory infringements. **BMB**

2 killed in bus-car crash in Raichur

Two women were killed on the spot and five others grievously injured when the car they were travelling in collided head on with a bus in the small hours of Sunday on the outskirts of the district headquarter town of Raichur.

According to police, the accident took place near Seventh Mile Cross in Raichur.

The injured were admitted to Raichur Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) Hospital and a private hospital.

A case was registered and investigation is on, they said. **PTI**

Will the idea of land swap for compensation help BDA?

BDA explores land offer strategy over compensation for Peripheral Ring Road, faces scepticism from landowners

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Farmers protest about lack of compensation for land given to PRR Business Corridor tender two weeks ago (File photo)

The inception of the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) dates back to the tenure of SM Krishna as Chief Minister, yet it has remained a mere concept due to the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) failure to devise a concrete plan for compensating land losers. Presently, a new strategy has emerged wherein the BDA aims to offer developed land from its planned layouts instead of providing financial compensation to land losers. The rationale behind this approach is to avoid hefty compensation payouts while also benefiting land losers with developed plots in BDA layouts, which they can either sell or retain for future development. However, the land losers remain sceptical about this proposition, insisting on compensation equivalent to current real estate values rather than accepting the BDA's offer.

Sources said that the change in nomenclature, shifting from PRR to Bengaluru Business Corridor, might not prove beneficial unless the State Government incorporates the concerns of land losers, convincing them to part with their land. Despite the land losers demanding increased compensation, the State Government remains unwilling to meet their demands.

A BDA official said, "We are contemplating an alternative strategy. Instead of providing monetary compensation, they are considering offering developed land from a layout to the affected landowners. To implement this, BDA is actively searching for suitable land in areas such as Kanakapura Road, Bannerghatta Road, and Tumakuru Road."

The construction of a 100-metre peripheral ring road between Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road necessitates a vast expanse of 2,596 acres. Officials estimate an expenditure of a staggering Rs 27,000 crore for land acquisition. Despite the financial challenges, the emphasis is on providing developed land rather than monetary compensation to the affected landowners. A BDA official stressed the need for 2,000 to 3,000 acres for a substantial layout, acknowledging the difficulty of finding such a large tract within Bengaluru city limits. Consequently, they are exploring options in the outskirts.

A concerned farmer, whose land is slated for acquisition, criticised the BDA for delayed works, issuing preliminary notifications without immediate compensation. This leaves farmers in a predicament, unable to utilise or sell their land while waiting for compensation. The plea is for the BDA to prioritise compensating land losers before embarking on acquisition and development. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar addressed the issue, expressing plans for higher compensation, pending discussion in the state cabinet. However, he stressed the government's commitment to not denotify land for which preliminary notifications have been issued, signalling intent for future peripheral ring road construction.

The BDA has a history of developing 64 layouts, distributing 1.3 lakh plots, but around 20,000 sites remain entangled in litigation. Meanwhile, the controversial Shivaram Karanth Layout's development is in its final stages, with 2,782 acres converted into plots out of the total 3,546 acres acquired.

> **"Instead of providing monetary compensation, they are considering offering developed land from a layout to the affected landowners** – BDA Official

On the need for PRR, a senior BDA official explained, "The road is necessary to ease traffic in the city and help the outskirts grow. Even though the BDA is having trouble getting enough money for the project, the main problem is compensating the farmers and landowners who will lose their land."

CM criticises JD(S)-BJP alliance

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda felt compelled to form an alliance between JD(S) and the BJP because many of his MLAs were ready to quit the party.

He said a 'drama' was played by the JD(S) patriarch to prevent the JD(S) from becoming 'zero.'

Addressing a public meeting at Malavalli in Mandya district, the CM reminded the audience that the JD(S) had won 37 seats in 2018 but lost 18 seats in 2023 when it won only 19 seats in the assembly elections.

"Fearing that they will be 'zero', they forged an alliance with the BJP because many JD(S) MLAs were ready to quit their party. To stop them, Deve Gowda staged the drama [of BJP-JD(S) alliance]," he said.

He said a 'drama' was played by the JD(S) patriarch to prevent the JD(S) from becoming 'zero'

Siddaramaiah said he vividly remembers Deve Gowda once saying that he would prefer to be born as a 'Musalman' in his next birth, but today he has forged an alliance with the BJP.

"I pray to you with folded hands, please remove the word 'secular' from your party Janata Dal (Secular). You have no moral right to use the word 'secular' anymore after forming an alliance with the communal BJP," the chief minister said, targeting his remarks at the JD(S).

He appealed to the people of Mandya to vote for the Congress as it fulfilled all the five key guarantees including the 'Shakti' scheme offering free bus rides to Karnataka women in non-luxury government buses anywhere in the state. So far womenhave taken up 155 Cr rides, he told people.

—PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Unique protest

Protests are not uncommon, but this one stood out from the rest. In a striking display of defiance, a labourer took a unique approach: he dug into the earth, buried himself up to his neck in sand, and commenced a solemn sit-in at the Raichur cemetery. Word of his unconventional protest spread rapidly like wildfire, prompting Raichur Tahsildar Suresh Varma to personally intervene. After a heartfelt conversation, Varma successfully persuaded the labourer to relent and withdraw his protest.

Punctual classes

Being punctual to Assembly has been stressed time and again. As the budget session has begun, UT Khader has been prioritising punctuality once again. During each day he calls out the names of those legislators who have arrived on time. When he read out recently, many lawmakers insisted their names were overlooked, claiming they arrived earlier. With a grin, Khader clarified that he was acknowledging those who arrived first on the previous day, promising to recognise that day's early birds the next day. He then encouraged all legislators to uphold punctuality for smoother proceedings.

Show of strength

For some time now, there's been a noticeable tension between BJP MLA from Raja Rajeshwari Nagar, N Muniratna, and the DK brothers. Their exchanges of words have been the talk of the town. The showdown finally happened on Sunday when both parties came face to face. Muniratna's supporters ignited the atmosphere with their slogans, swiftly countered by enthusiastic Congress backers rallying for their leaders. Amidst the charged atmosphere, Muniratna made it clear that the event wasn't a praise programme but a platform to address public grievances. Later, during Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's speech, he couldn't resist taking a swipe at Muniratna and ST Somashekar, highlighting their party-hopping from Congress to BJP after initially laying the foundation for the former. This remark triggered a few supporters to voice their opinions, prompting DKS to intervene and urge for silence.

Attention diversion

Amidst the glitz and glamour of the recent Hampi Utsav, a plethora of celebrities graced the event, with Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan at the helm. As the charismatic Kannada actor Ravichandran took the stage, showering praises on Khan for his adept organisation of the programme, the minister seemed preoccupied with something else. In a playful jab at Khan's distraction, Ravichandran humorously questioned why the minister wasn't tuned in while he was showering him with heartfelt accolades, creating a lighthearted moment on the dais.

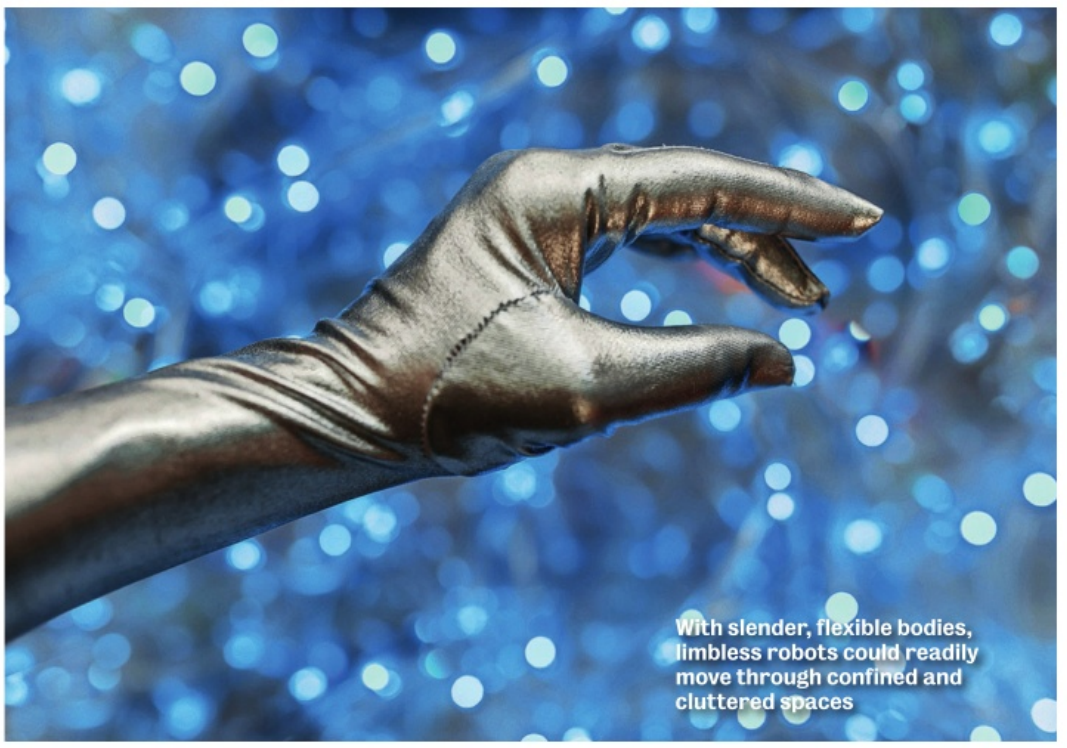
Avenging revenge

Instances of students being coerced into cleaning school toilets have unfortunately tarnished the reputation of government schools in various regions. However, a particularly egregious incident emerged from Davanagere, where students were captured on video undertaking this demeaning task. The viral footage sparked outrage, leading to the suspension of the headmistress. Yet, upon closer examination, officials uncovered a sinister plot: the headmistress had been unjustly scapegoated. It was revealed that a vengeful teacher, seeking retribution against the headmistress, orchestrated the entire ordeal. The teacher manipulated students into cleaning the toilets, filmed the act, and maliciously circulated the video, falsely incriminating the headmistress.

—Sridhar Vivan

Crawl is well

Scientists try to build limbless robots that could navigate disaster sites, assist survivors


With slender, flexible bodies, limbless robots could readily move through confined and cluttered spaces

Scientists have been trying to build snakelike, limbless robots for decades. These robots could come in handy in search-and-rescue situations, where they could navigate collapsed buildings to find and assist survivors.

With slender, flexible bodies, limbless robots could readily move through confined and cluttered spaces such as debris fields, where walking or wheeled robots and human rescuers tend to fail.

However, even the most advanced limbless robots have not come close to moving with the agility and versatility of worms and snakes in difficult terrain. Even the tiny nematode worm Caenorhabditis elegans, which has a relatively simple nervous system, can navigate through difficult physical environments.

As part of a team of engineers, roboticists and physicists, we wanted to explore this discrepancy in performance. But instead of looking to neuroscience for an answer, we turned to biomechanics.

We set out to build a robot model that drove its body using a mechanism similar to how worms and snakes power their movement.

Mechanical intelligence

Over thousands of years, organisms have evolved intricate nervous systems that allow them to sense their physical surroundings, process this information and execute precise body movements to navigate around obstacles.

In robotics, engineers design algorithms that take in information from sensors on the robot's body – a type of robotic nervous system – and use that information to decide how to move. These algorithms and systems are usually complex.

Our team wanted to figure out a way to simplify these systems by highlighting mechanically controlled approaches to dealing with obstacles that don't require sensors or computation. To do that, we turned to examples from biology.

Animals don't rely solely on their neurons – brain cells and peripheral nerves – to control movement. They also use the physical properties of their body – for example, the elasticity of their muscles – to help them react to their environment spontaneously, before their neurons even have a chance to respond.

While computational systems are governed by the laws of mathematics, mechanical systems are governed by physics. To achieve the same task, scientists can either design an algorithm or carefully design a physical system.

For example, limbless robots and animals move through the world by bending sections of their body left and right, a type of movement called undulation. If they collide with an obstacle, they have to turn away and go around it by bending more to one side than the other.

Scientists could achieve this with a robot by attaching sensors to its head or body. They could then design an algorithm that tells the robot to turn away or wind around the obstacle when it "feels" a large enough force on its head or body. Alternatively, scientists could carefully select the robot's materials and the arrangement and strength of its motors so that collisions would spontaneously produce a body shape that led to a turn. This robot would have what scientists call "mechanical intelligence."

If scientists like us can understand how organisms' bodies respond mechanically to contact with objects in their environment, we can design better robots that can deal with obstacles without having to program complex algorithms.

If you compare a diverse set of undulating organisms with the increasingly large zoo of robotic "snakes," one difference between the robots and biological undulators stands out. Nearly all undulatory robots bend their bodies using a series of connected segments with motors at each joint. But that's not how living organisms bend.

In contrast, all limbless organisms, from large snakes to the lowly, microscopic nematode, achieve bends not from a single rotational joint-motor system but instead through two bands of muscles on either side of the body. To an engineer, this design seems counter-intuitive. Why control something with two muscles or motors when one could do the job?

To get to the bottom of this question, our team built a new robot called MILLR, for mechanically intelligent limbless robot, inspired by the two bands of muscle on snakes and worms. MILLR has two independently controlled cables that pull each joint left and right, bilaterally.

We found this method allows the robot to spontaneously move around obstacles without having to sense its surroundings and actively change its body posture to comply with the environment.

Building a mechanically intelligent robot

Rather than mimicking the detailed muscular anatomy of a particular organism, MILLR applies forces to either side of the body by spooling and unspooling a cable.

This way, it mirrors the muscle activation methods that snakes and nematodes use, where the left and right sides take turns activating. This activation mode pulls the body toward one side or another by tightening on one side, while the other side relaxes and is pulled along passively.

"In robotics, engineers design algorithms that take in information from sensors on the robot's body and use that information to decide how to move

By changing the amount of slack in the cables, we can achieve varying degrees of body stiffness. When the robot collides with an obstacle, depending on the cable tension, it selectively maintains its shape or bends under the force of the obstacle.

We found that if the robot was actively bending to one side and it experienced a force in the same direction, the body complied to the force and bent further. If, alternatively, the robot experienced a force that opposed the bend, it would remain rigid and push itself off the obstacle.

Because of the pattern of the tension along the body, head-on collisions that would normally cause the robot to stop moving or jam itself instead naturally led to a redirection around the obstacle. The robot could push itself forward consistently.

Testing MILLR

To investigate the benefits of mechanical intelligence, we built tiny obstacle courses and sent nematode worms through them to see how well they performed. We sent MILLR through a similar course and compared the results.

MILLR moved through its course about as effectively as the real worms. We noticed that the worms made the same type of body movements when they collided with obstacles as MILLR did.

The principles of mechanical intelligence could extend beyond the realm of nematodes. Future research could look at designing robots based on a host of other types of organisms for applications ranging from search and rescue to exploring other planets.

Tianyu Wang and Christopher Pierce, Georgia Institute of Technology, The Conversation

BITS & BYTES

Gaming is afoot

Fighting arcade game T-Mek for the Mega 32X ranked the top most expensive retro gaming title at present, with Mario The Juggler securing the second spot in the list, a new study has revealed.

The study by gaming site 1337.Games examined the data from second-hand retailer CeX to see which retro titles could be traded for the highest amount in cash.

It found that T-Mek for the Mega 32X can be traded in for about $1,432 right now, the highest of any title, nearly $126 more than second place. It's one of 40 games for the short-lived Mega 32X, released as an add-on for the Sega Genesis console. The second game -- Mario The Juggler for the Wide Screen Series of the Game & Watch being able to be traded in for up to $1310 presently. "When it comes to collecting groups of games, a collection can not be complete until it features every game version," said a spokesperson. **–IANS**

Without consent

The International Publishers' Association (IPA) president Karine Pansa accused big technology companies of using copyrighted content "without permission" for AI-generated materials and urged publishers to raise their concerns.

Pansa, who recently visited India for the ongoing New Delhi World Book Fair, said the IPA is holding discussions with its member countries, including India, on how to deal with the big tech companies for infringing publishers' copyrights by "reproducing their materials without permission" for AI training.

"The big tech companies are using the content available on the internet to regenerate the new content without consent, and part of this content is books, the content of which belongs to the publishers. It is being used without their permission, consent, licensed payment, and remuneration. **–PTI**

For real

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has shared intriguing insights into the potential synergies between OpenAI's Sora and his own autonomous driving ambitions after the ChatGPT maker unveiled its text-to-video model.

Responding to a video captioned 'What does @OpenAI's Sora have to do with @Tesla's FSD (Full Self-Driving) v12?' on X, Musk said, "Tesla has been able to do real-world video generation with accurate physics for about a year". However, he that the videos were not much interesting since the real-world training data comes only from the electric automaker's camera-equipped fleet. **–IANS**

Napolitano wards off Hong to clinch Bengaluru Open

Stefano Napolitano showed wonderful persistence to ward off ninth seed Seongchan Hong of South Korea in the final to grab his maiden Challenger title at the Bengaluru Open here on Sunday.

The seventh seeded Italian won 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in a match that lasted close to two hours.

Napolitano started the opening set on a sluggish note as all the exhaustion from beating second seeded Indian Sumit Nagal in a gruelling semifinal match on Saturday seemed to have caught up with him.

Though he cashed in on a couple of unforced errors from Hong to bag a break in the first game of the opening set, Napolitano could not hold his own serve in the second game.

In the fifth game, Hong affected the crucial break when Napolitano slammed a heavy forehand from his rival into the net.

The Korean man soon successfully closed out the first set 6-4.

But Napolitano returned to his elements in the second set as he regained the direction of his serves and ground shots.

His relentlessness came to fruition in the fourth game as he established a 0-40 lead and eventually earned the vital break when Hong's forehand sailed over the baseline.

It helped Napolitano gain a 3-1 lead and from that point the Italian did not allow any chance for his opponent to claw back, winning the second set 6-3.

The third set was a mirror image of its predecessor. Napolitano gained a break in the first game itself. After engaging in a long rally at 30-40, Napolitano hammered a forehand that pitched close to baseline, and Hong failed to connect it properly as the ball flew into the stands.

Having gained an early 1-0 lead, Napolitano dictated the whole proceedings of the decider dishing out solid service games.

Another easy hold in the eighth game gave the 28-year-old a comfortable 5-3 lead and the fight seemed to have ebbed out of Hong.

Napolitano crunched a couple of exquisite forehand winners to go up 0-40, and then applied finishing touch to the match with a heavy backhand that Hong failed to retrieve.

Result (Singles, final): 7-Stefano Napolitano beat 9- Seongchan Hong 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. **PTI**

Doubles win

A few hours after the country's top singles player was ousted from the event, India's Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan comfortably clinched the doubles title to bring some cheer to the fans in the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger Series tennis event at the KSLTA Tennis Stadium here on Saturday.

Myneni and Ramkumar defeated the French combination of Constantin Kouzmine and Maxime Janvier 6-3, 6-4 in an hour and 18 minutes to clinch the doubles title.

Former PM Deve Gowda discharged from hospital

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, who was admitted to a private hospital with respiratory illness, was discharged on Sunday afternoon, the hospital said.

"Deve Gowda is fit and functional," Dr Satya Narayana Mysore, HOD and Respiratory Medicine and Transplant physician at Manipal hospital, was quoted as saying in a bulletin.

The 90-year-old JD(S) supremo was admitted to Manipal Hospital on Thursday morning for respiratory illness and was under the observation of Dr Mysore. **PTI**

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I, Kumkumshree w/o Kuppusamy R/o No.40, 201, 2nd floor, Abhinav poorna palace, KR road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Kumkumshree Kuppusamy affidavit Dt.17/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Manoharan Kumar (Manoharan K) S/o Kumar A K R/o No.8, 1st C cross, Lalbagh road, Sudhamanagar, Bengaluru 560027 have changed my name to Mohammed Abu Hasan affidavit Dt.17/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sova Rai R/o 79 6th Cross,24th Main Near Maramma Temple Agara Hsr Layout 1st Sector Bangalore - 560102 have changed my minor daughter's name from Anjel Gurung to Anjel Rai.

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27 crashes, 11 fatalities on Airport Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of accidents is lower than Basavanagudi, the higher injury count suggests a significant safety concern. Indiranagar saw five accidents, resulting in two fatalities. Despite a lower number of accidents compared to other areas, the fatality rate per accident is relatively high.

Of particular concern was the North division, which recorded the highest number of accidents at 130. This division accounted for 33 fatalities and 103 injuries, indicating a pressing need for targeted interventions to address road safety issues in this area.

Within the North division, the North East subdivision stood out with 85 accidents, resulting in 25 fatalities and 63 injuries.

According to the Bengaluru Traffic Police, more than 400 accidents have occurred in the city during the initial month of 2024, resulting in the loss of 90 lives.

The high number of fatalities on the road is not new for Bengaluru.

According to statistics from the Bengaluru Traffic Police, 2023 marked a grim milestone as the city posted its highest fatality rate from road accidents in a decade.

A total of 909 individuals lost their lives in 880 fatal accidents, surpassing the previous record. The figures for 2022 stood at 772 fatalities from 752 accidents. Additionally, the overall number of accidents surged from 3,822 in 2022 to 5,004 in 2023.

ETA of your BMTC bus is...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

comes to vehicle positions/ETAs. "Problem is, the displays don't even sort arrivals correctly by time. I've always noticed these display boards showing random buses which are anywhere from 15-45 minutes away as compared to the next few buses which the app does show correctly. The displays currently have an accuracy of 0% (from every stop I've checked)," he said.

Another frequent commuter Arun Soundararajan said that at the stop near his home, the display was showing details for the bus stop on the opposite lane.

After several complaints of inaccuracies and poor integration of the Namma BMTC application with the tracking systems put in place, the public transporter in November last year decided to conduct a functional audit of the Namma BMTC application and has called for proposals from agencies.

The selected agency will verify the functional requirements of all the onboard devices such as CCTV cameras and panic buttons as well as the passenger information boards (display boards) among others and their integration functionality.

HEALTH TIP: The primary cause of hypothyroidism on a global scale is iodine deficiency, as this essential mineral cannot be naturally synthesized by the body

Include vitamin D-rich foods in your diet like cheese, mushrooms, foods fortified with the vitamin

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Monday, February 19, 2024
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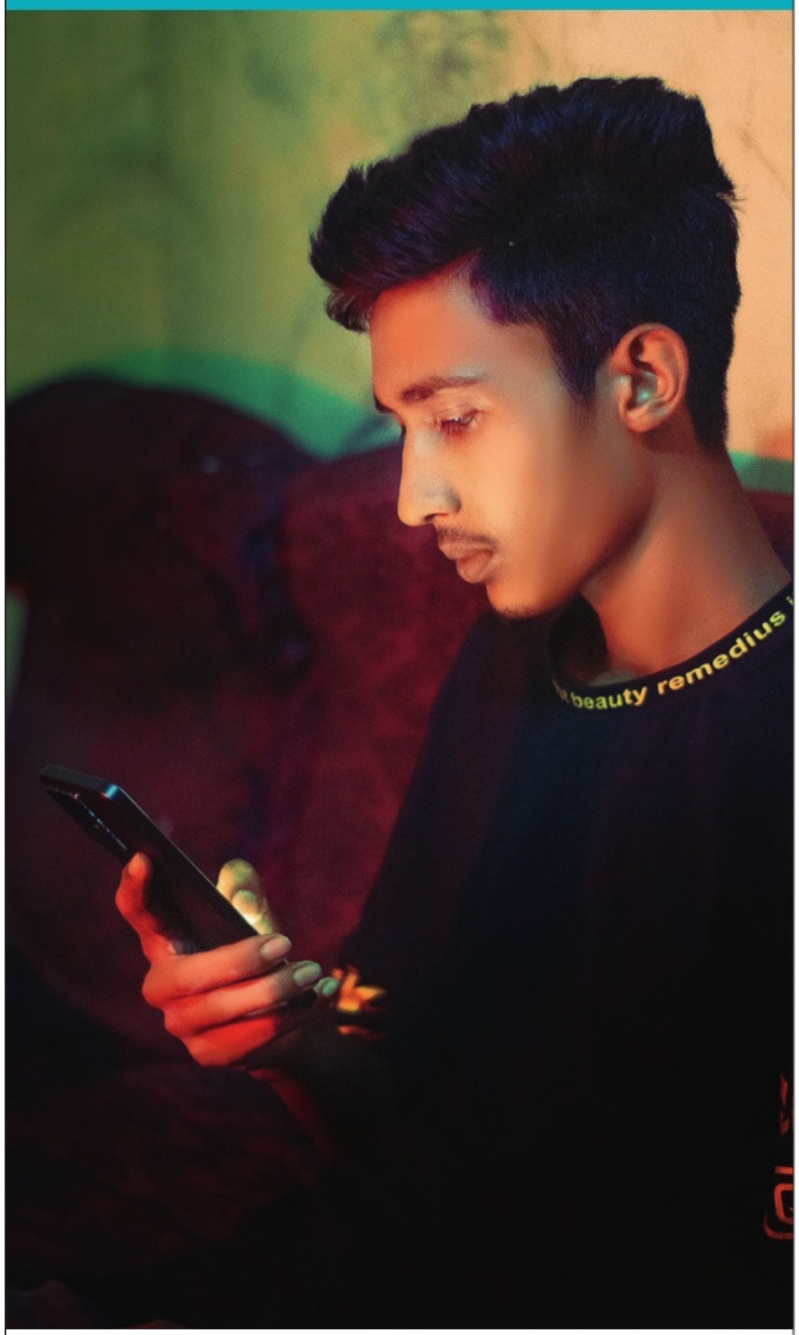
'IT IS HIJACKING MY BRAIN'

Team of experts found ways to help young people addicted to social media to cut the craving



Many people have compared the addictive nature of social media to cigarettes. Checking your likes, they say, is the new smoke break. Others say the unease over social media is just the next round of moral panic about new technologies.

We are a pair of researchers who investigate how social media affects the mental health of young people. More than 75% of teens check their phone hourly, and half say they feel like they're addicted to their devices.

Here are some of the things they've told us: "TikTok has me in a chokehold."

"I would 1,000% say I am addicted."

"I feel completely aware that it is hijacking my brain, but I can't put it down. This leaves me feeling ashamed."

Maybe you've had similar feelings yourself, no matter your age. Although it's true social technologies offer clear benefits – unlike smoking – many people still feel uncomfortable with how much time they spend online and often wonder if they're addicted.

Years of investigation have led our team to this conclusion: Perhaps a better approach is to view your media consumption as a diet. Just as there are many ways to have a healthy diet, there are also a variety of ways to develop healthy and personalized social media habits.

The search for answers

A deluge of research on social media usage that began in the early 2010s shows negative impacts in areas related to body image, eating disorders and social comparison.

Conversely, other studies point to the mental health benefits of social media, including social well-being, strong friendships and exposure to diverse perspectives.

Still other studies show conflicting results. In fact, inconclusive or mixed results seem to be a recurring pattern when researching this subject.

The inconsistencies in these studies highlight the very hard problem of characterizing healthy interaction between two complex systems – social media technologies and human behavioral psychology.

One issue is that the stress, anxiety and challenges to self-esteem experienced by users may vary from moment to moment, depending on what they are viewing. Consider that not all time spent on social media is equal. For example, messaging distant friends for one hour a day will likely leave you feeling more fulfilled than spending 30 minutes a day doomscrolling, which refers to an excessive amount of time consuming negative media.

That's why researchers are trying to distinguish between the active and passive use of social media. "Active use" refers to social exchanges, like sending messages or posting content, while "passive use" is strictly the consumption of social media content without participation, contribution or engagement with others.

But even this distinction is too simplistic and has come under scrutiny. Some active behaviours, such as trolling on Reddit, are likely unhealthy for everyone involved. And some passive behaviours, like consuming educational videos, are beneficial.

Because healthy media consumption varies considerably from person to person, our research takes a different approach and focuses on users developing personal agency with respect to their media consumption.

A four-week intervention

More than 500 college students with a wide range of social media habits have participated in our ongoing study. The students begin by reflecting on their current relationship with social media and then set goals for the changes they want to make. This might include spending less time mindlessly scrolling, curating their feed on an app or not sleeping with the phone in the bedroom.

For four weeks, participants report their success in adhering to their goals. They also reflect on their feelings and experiences through journaling and completing standard psychological surveys that capture social media addiction and other mental health outcomes.

Our initial analysis indicates that the four-week intervention significantly reduces social media addiction for those who started with problematic or clinical levels of social media addiction.

Problematic social media addiction is associated with a host of negative effects including moodiness, anxiety and an excessive amount of time and energy spent on or thinking about social media. People with clinical social media addiction levels experience those same effects but to a great degree, with their habit patterns around social media resembling that of an addict.

Those with problematic social media addiction scores at the start of the intervention showed a mean reduction of 26%, and scores for participants who began with clinical social media addiction scores fell by 35%. These reductions brought both groups into a healthy range of social media use by the conclusion of the intervention.

At the end of the four weeks, participants reported positive changes in their relationships with social media with statements like the following:

"I feel as though my connections have strengthened with my friends because when I now communicate with them, it is to have an actual conversation, rather than to pass the time responding to Snapchats."

"I find (social media) a lot less appealing in a lot of ways and haven't really felt the urge to post something in a long time. I think I am … using it for fun or connectedness instead of distraction."

"This challenge has positively changed how I view social media, and social approval."

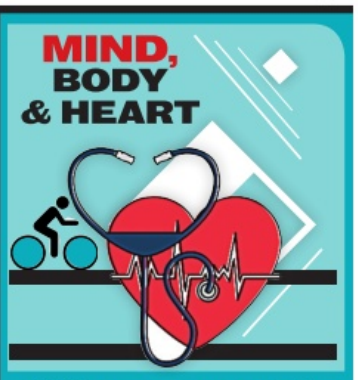
Positive change takes time

Much like any behaviour change, adopting healthier media consumption habits requires time, dedication and self-reflection. While our research focuses on college students, we believe a similar four-week process focused on agency and reflection can lead to profound improvements in overall well-being for people of all ages.

That said, there are practical steps you can take right now to reduce your dependence on social media. This includes turning off notifications, removing or limiting apps that you find harmful, curating your social media feed by unfollowing certain accounts, setting your phone to grayscale to reduce the appeal, and reserving phone-free time. You can get started right now by taking a free, psychologically validated survey to assess your level of addiction.

If you can't eat gluten, you probably don't keep wheat-based bread in the kitchen. A truly healthy diet requires learning which foods make you feel your best and finding joy in eating certain foods in moderation. Similarly, our research shows that spending some time setting goals and engaging in self-reflection can change your relationship with social media – for the better.

(By Annie Margaret and Nicholas Hunkins, University of Colorado Boulder, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

5 detox drinks

Vetiver water
Vetiver or khus khus is known for its cooling properties. It is easy to make by boiling the vetiver roots in water. Drink it once in the day after filtering the water. This detox water is perfect for weight loss, nerve relaxation, and treating insomnia.

Coriander water
Coriander stimulates digestive enzymes and juices, which are known to enhance our digestive system. It is a good source of fibre too. This drink is loaded with minerals and vitamins, potassium, iron, magnesium, calcium, folic acid, and vitamins A, K, and C. Boil water with one tablespoon of coriander seeds in it. Bring to a boil and let it cool down overnight. Filter it the next morning.

Cumin-lemon water
Cumin can help in burning calories faster by increasing the speed of metabolism and improving digestion. Soak cumin seeds or jeera overnight, then boil the water along with the seeds. Drain out the seeds and drink lukewarm water, add half a lime juice into detox water.

Cinnamon-honey water
Consuming honey right before bedtime can help you burn more calories during the early hours of sleep. This ingredient is enriched with vitamins, minerals, and healthy fats as well. Essential hormones in honey suppress appetite and aid weight loss. Cinnamon, on the other hand, helps you lose visceral fat. It prevents common colds, allergies, cholesterol, supports weight loss.

Fenugreek water
Fenugreek is a rich source of many vitamins and minerals such as iron, magnesium, manganese, copper, vitamin B6, protein, and dietary fibre. It also has antioxidant properties. Soak some fenugreek seeds overnight and drink the water in the morning on an empty stomach.

—Dietitian Archana Batra for Femina

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Together Bill and Frank can dig a ditch in 4 hours. Bill digs exactly twice as fast as Frank does. How long would it take Frank to dig a ditch if he was working alone?

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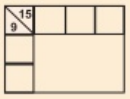
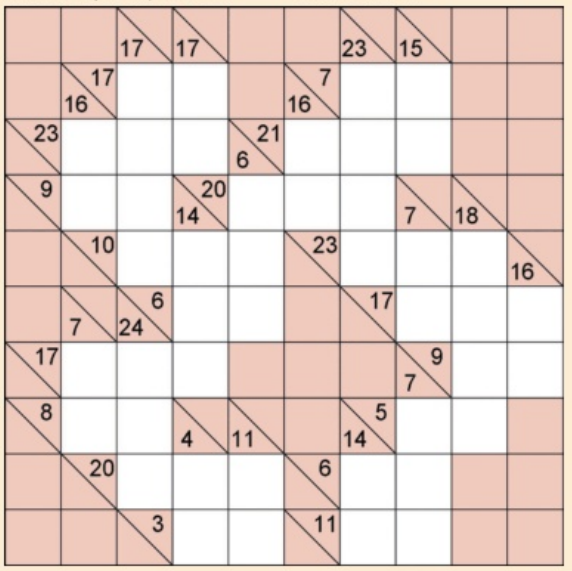
Kakuro

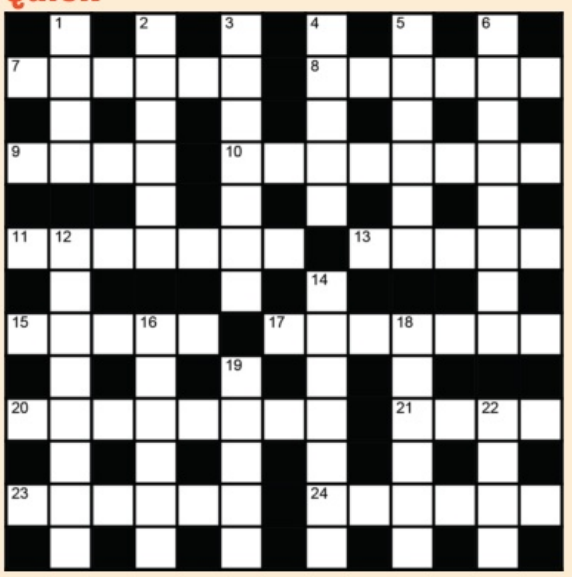
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Ex-tennis champion Tracy ___ (6)
8 Musical direction meaning 'lively' (6)
9 Series of spirals (4)
10 Bear with, stand (8)
11 Hindu goddess of wealth (7)
13 Stretchy synthetic fabric (5)
15 Devoutness (5)
17 Advertising tunes (7)
20 Placed in a separated grouping (3,5)
21 A tune or a melody (4)
23 Reduces in degree or intensity (6)
24 Disorderly lout (6)

DOWN

1 Japanese wrestling (4)
2 Stems (6)
3 Single occasion (3,4)
4 Egg shapes (5)
5 Excessively (6)
6 Without penalty (4,4)
12 Complied (6,2)
14 Disturbers of peace? (7)
16 Karnataka's popular idli variant (6)
18 Lazy sort of industrial action? (2-4)
19 Quagmire (5)
22 Want or require (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS T

DMX HDMVWCSZ JH SIZ DYZ BID WCRZH VJOZ EDWZ SD VJOZ.

Linemaro

The way you eat sandwich is so elegant

Mindchow

Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live

Joke of the day

My grandfather always said, "Don't watch your money, watch your health." So one day while I was watching my health, someone stole my money. It was my grandfather

Loop

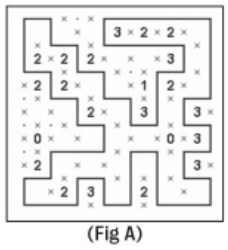
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

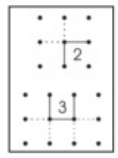
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

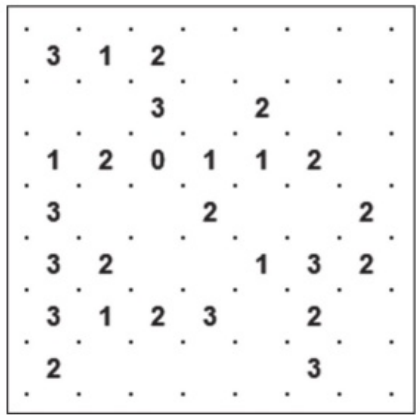
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



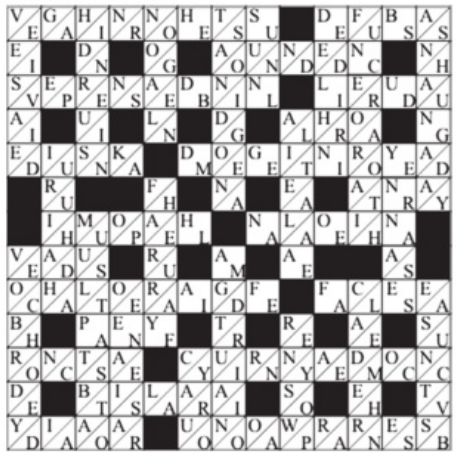
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



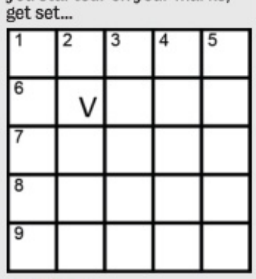
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Are mo; 6 Raves; 7 Son ma; 8 Lamia; 9 CY One

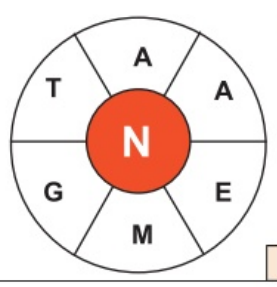
DOWN

1 Amnic; 2 OO Vol; 3 Namer; 4 A mare; 5 As yes

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

70 91 120
14 13 24
5 7 ?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		6		4		3		
5							8	
	8		9		2	1		
				9	7		4	5
	6						3	
1	4		5	3				
		9	3		8		7	
	1							4
		8		7		2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
3 5 8 9

Medium = 11
3 7 8 9

Hard = 10
2 7 9 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

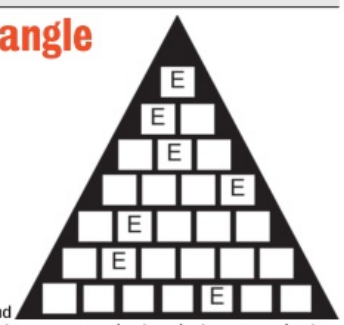
Differences: 1. Sleeve is longer. 2. Window in door is lower. 3. Bush is larger. 4. Zipper pull is added. 5. Roof is smaller. 6. Hat is reversed.

Riddler

Based on the information below, does Namrata prefer Monopoly or darts? Namrata likes: zest but not pulp, reggae but not hip-hop, and fact but not opinion

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 tu Brute ...
3 Even so
4 Ancient city
5 Watery-eyed
6 Double-cross
7 Artillery unit



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

I invented something that might work as a modification to this "barrow" of yours.
Wayno & Piraro 5-7-22
BIZARRO.COM ©2022 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

IN FURTHER NEWS ABOUT THE SPACE OBJECT PASSING NEAR THE EARTH...
WE CAN NOW CONFIRM THAT IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE A NATURALLY OCCURRING PIECE OF SPACE DEBRIS.
'IN FACT, THE OBJECT VERY MUCH RESEMBLES AN ORDINARY BACKYARD GRILL!'
NEWS 1
5-4
BATTUK & DAVIS crankshaftcomic.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and your destiny is with you. Your postponed projects are likely to start now. You may receive blessings from elders, which can help you overcome messy situations and boost your work speed. Resolving disputes within the family may bring domestic harmony and improve your creativity.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the moon is not in a favourable position, and you may feel dull with possible health issues. Financial losses are indicated, so it's advised to avoid risky investments and worthless objects. Stay away from controversies to prevent negative outcomes.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, indicating love in the air for singles and success in professional life. Friends and colleagues will likely support you, contributing to your overall well-being.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Confidence is high today, reflecting in your work and relationships. You're in a winning position against opponents and have a good focus on your goals. Health is stable, but avoid unnecessary arguments at home to maintain domestic harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Auspicious planetary combinations bring happiness and positive energy, enhancing your prestige and encouraging intellectual pursuits like higher studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Negative vibrations may surround you today, leading to unhappiness and lack of support from friends. Avoid expecting too much from others and make independent decisions to navigate through the day.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Lack of confidence may hinder logical presentation and routine tasks. Be cautious of unhealthy food to avoid stomach issues, and don't expect cooperation from others. Rely on intuition for decision-making, especially regarding investments.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Expect excitement and cooperation from family and friends today. Consider home renovations or acquiring souvenirs to enhance your social status. Fixed assets may increase, bringing stability to your financial situation.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Gains are likely with minimal effort today, and losses may turn into profits through wise decisions. Consider investing in intellectual assets or academic courses. Charity and helping others are favoured activities.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Dullness and health issues may arise today, so avoid conflicts and rush decisions, especially in business matters. Elders' blessings may bring evening relief and control over situations.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Destiny favours you today, allowing postponed projects to progress and disputes within the family to be resolved. Increased domestic harmony and improved creativity are highlighted.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Enthusiasm and focus drive your performance today, leading to success in business or work. Support from your boss and potential promotion opportunities are indicated. A visit to a religious place may bring peace and humility. Avoid arrogance in love life.

KIDZONE

Anirvesh Nair, 10 years, Euro School (North)

Ullas Gowda K, 12 years, Jnana Sweekar Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
In 4 hours, F has dug 1/3 of the ditch. (B, 2/3)
So, it would take Frank 12 hours to dig the ditch solo.

QUOTE UNCODE
Our soulmate is the one who makes life come to life.

STRIKE OUT

V	A	I	N	N	E	S	S	■	D	U	B	S	■	■
I	■	D	■	O	■	A	U	D	E	N	■	H	■	■
V	E	R	S	E	D	I	N	■	L	E	D	A	■	■
I	■	I	■	L	■	G	■	A	H	A	■	N	■	■
D	U	S	K	■	D	O	G	T	I	R	E	D	■	■
■	R	■	F	■	N	■	A	■	T	R	Y	■	■	■
I	M	P	E	L	■	A	L	O	H	A	■	■	■	■
E	A	U	■	R	■	A	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	■
C	H	L	O	R	I	D	E	■	F	L	E	A	■	■
H	■	A	N	Y	■	R	■	E	■	A	■	U	■	■
O	■	T	A	■	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	■	■
E	■	T	I	A	R	A	■	O	■	E	■	T	■	■
I	■	L	■	A	■	M	■	A	■	S	■	■	■	■
N	O	M	A	S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	V	E	R	S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	O	R	A	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	O	N	E	Y	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

FAST FIVE

M	O	R	A	E
A	V	E	R	S
N	O	M	A	S
I	L	A	M	A
C	O	N	E	Y

RIDDLER
She likes darts, because she likes words that can be spelled using only the left half of a QWERTY keyboard, and dislikes words spelled with letters from the right half.

QUICK

S	S	O	■	O	O	■	S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	U	S	T	I	N	■	V	I	V	A	C	E	■	■
M	■	A	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	O	■	■	■	■
C	O	I	L	■	T	O	L	E	R	A	T	E	■	■
■	■	K	■	I	■	S	■	L	■	F	■	■	■	■
L	A	K	S	H	M	I	■	L	V	C	R	A	■	■
■	■	B	■	■	E	■	R	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
P	I	E	T	Y	■	J	U	I	N	G	L	E	S	■
D	■	H	■	M	■	O	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	E	T	A	P	A	R	T	■	S	O	N	G	■	■
D	■	T	■	E	■	L	■	■	E	■	■	■	■	■
O	■	T	A	■	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	■	■
A	■	T	I	A	R	A	■	O	■	E	■	T	■	■
Y	■	E	■	H	■	S	■	R	I	O	T	E	R	■

SUDOKU

2	7	6	8	4	1	3	5	9
5	9	1	7	6	3	4	8	2
3	8	4	9	5	2	1	6	7
8	3	2	1	9	7	6	4	5
9	6	5	2	8	4	7	3	1
1	4	7	5	3	6	9	2	8
4	2	9	3	1	8	5	7	6
7	1	3	6	2	5	8	9	4
6	5	8	4	7	9	2	1	3

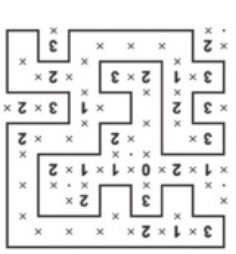
MENSA PUZZLE
5: 70 ÷ 14 = 5;
91 ÷ 13 = 7,
120 ÷ 24 = 5

BULL'S EYE
agent, amen, ante, gent, gnat, MAGNATE, magna, magnet, manage, mane, mange, mean, meant, name, neat

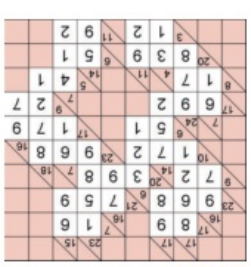
GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 5 – 9 – 3 = 1
9 – 8 + 7 + 3 = 11
Hard
7 x 3 – 9 – 2 = 10

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Et, Yet, Tyre, Teary, Betray, Battery.

LOOP



KAKURO



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Baby on board— After three years of marriage, the cutest couple of Bollywood Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal are all set to embrace parenthood. On Sunday, Varun took to Instagram and shared the good news with their fans and followers

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In the spotlight

The anticipation surrounding the premiere of the upcoming series 'Poacher,' backed by Alia Bhatt, reached new heights with a special screening held in London. The event, attended by various celebrities associated with the project, including creators Richie Mehta and Alia Bhatt, featured a delightful moment between Alia and actress Freida Pinto.

On the evening of February 17, the London screening brought together the creative minds behind 'Poacher,' with Alia Bhatt making a captivating appearance in a black velvet saree adorned with a golden border.

The actress exuded retro elegance, complimenting her attire with a pearl necklace, subtle makeup highlighted by bold red lipstick, and a chic bun hairstyle. Joining the event in a sleek black top paired with a matching blazer and beige trousers, Freida Pinto showcased effortless sophistication.

The heartwarming interaction between Alia and Freida added to the glamour of the occasion, with the two stars warmly greeting each other with a hug and posing stylishly for photographs. Alia shared glimpses from the event on Instagram, including an adorable picture capturing a sweet moment with her sister, Shaheen Bhatt. —ETimes

TABLE MANNERS

How Sush managed to nail dining etiquette

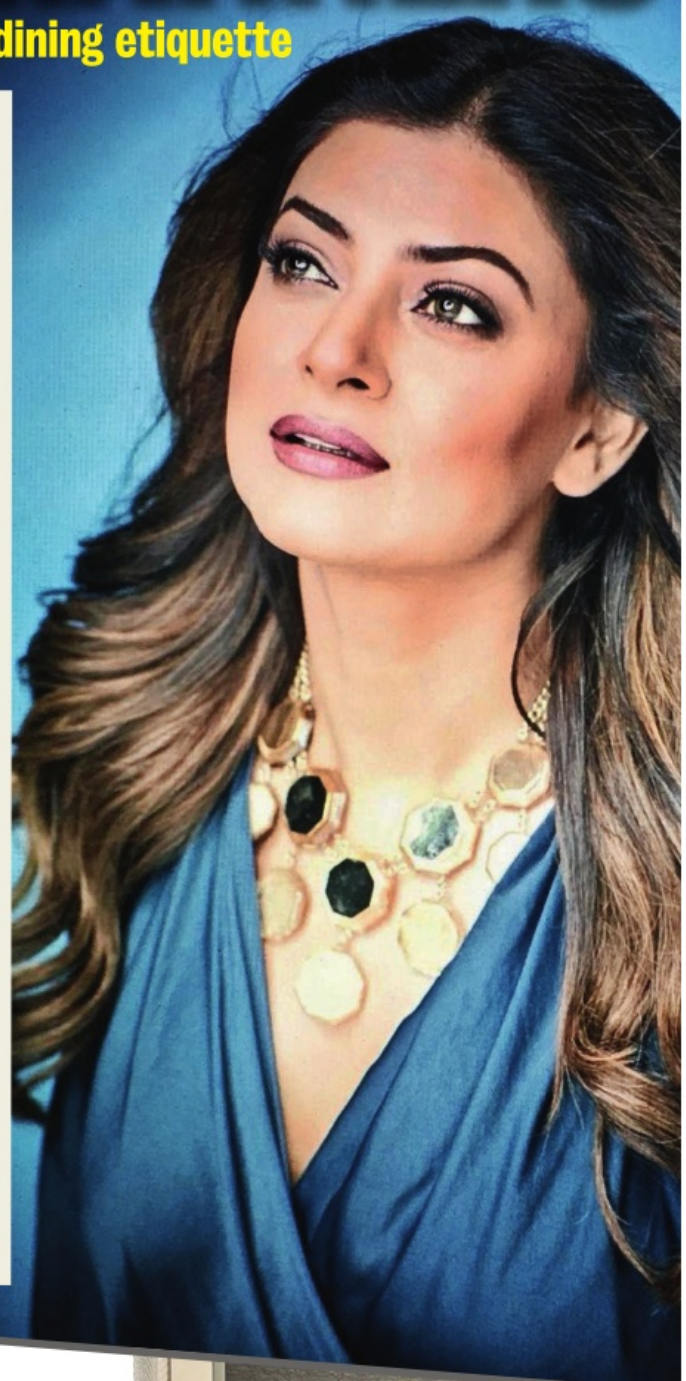
Sushmita Sen, who made history as India's first woman to win the Miss Universe title in 1994, recently opened up about a memorable dining experience that shaped her approach to table etiquette. After winning the prestigious crown, Sushmita Sen found herself in Mexico, attending an official dinner as the guest of honor, surrounded by twenty men, despite her limited proficiency in English at the time.

Feeling hungry and out of place, Sen sought guidance from Barbara, her travel manager, and realised she needed to lead the dinner. With the assistance of the tourism minister of Mexico seated to her left, Sen gracefully navigated through the seven-course meal, as revealed by the actress in a conversation with Curly Tales.

This encounter served as a way for her to learn proper table manners and avoid feeling uncomfortable in a similar situation.

Sushmita Sen, expressing her determination to enhance her etiquette, approached the Miss Universe organisation, and they arranged for her to meet an etiquette teacher from San Francisco. Together, they practiced various aspects of etiquette, with a particular emphasis on dining etiquette. One invaluable lesson she learned was the advice to eat before official dinners, allowing her to politely decline additional food during the meal.

Recalling the experience, she emphasised the importance of carrying oneself with grace during official dinners. Her commitment to learning and adapting to different situations reflects her dedication to personal growth and refinement. —ETimes



Eyes peeled for DP at BAFTAs

Half an hour after midnight on Sunday (Indian Standard Time), curtains go up on the BAFTAs, the much-anticipated British Academy of Film and Television Awards, with Prince William being the guest of honour and Deepika Padukone one of the presenters.

As the world of showbiz prepares for the BAFTAs, which may not be up there with the Oscars, but are nonetheless counted among the world's top four film awards, here's a curtain-raiser to bring you up to date on the event.

The race this year is between British-born Christopher Nolan's 'Oppenheimer', which has got 13 nominations, including best film, best actor (Cillian Murphy) and best supporting actress (Emily Blunt), and Yorgos Lanthimos's brilliantly original 'Poor Things', which received 11 nods. Emma Stone is a frontrunner in the best actress race.

Nolan, according to BBC.com, is favourite to pick up best director. If, as widely expected, Robert Downey Jr picks up the award for best supporting actor, it will be his second Bafta win -- 31 years after his best actor win for 'Chaplin' back in 1993. Other films hoping for wins include French courtroom drama 'Anatomy of a Fall', nostalgic comedy 'The Holdovers', the Leonard Bernstein biopic 'Maestro' with Bradley Cooper playing the lead role, fantasy romance 'All of Us Strangers', black comedy thriller 'Saltburn' and 'Barbie'. —IANS

Charmed

Bollywood heartthrob Kartik Aaryan made hearts skip a beat as he showed off his suave side in a sharp suit. The hunk, who was attending a friend's wedding over the weekend, had all eyes on him as he attended the reception in a grey suit that he paired with a black button down shirt and dress pants.

Aaryan exuded charm and elegance at the event and it was hard for the ladies to miss an opportunity to get a picture with him.

Some unseen photos from the ceremony, saw the hunk putting on his best smile for the cameras as he posed with some women, believed to be part of the 'Chandu Champion' film crew.

On Saturday, Kartik won hearts for his 'desi' look in an all black sherwani which he captioned "Sangeet Ready". The post garnered attention on the 'Gram, with fans flooding the comments section with compliments praising his fashion sense.